



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary October 17, 2011

Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas and introductions were made. September's minutes will be approved pending quorum of members.

Update from Upcounty Regional Director

Catherine Matthews, Regional Director, shared the following highlights:

- The Dept. of Health & Human Services will host a community forum on the FY2013 operating budget on October 19, 6pm-8pm at the Children's Resource Center in Rockville.
- There will be a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the opening of the Watkins Mill Road Extension project Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 11:00am.
- The Office of the County Executive will announce the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board's three remaining vacancies to be filled.
- The Recreation Dept. is accepting applications for the Upcounty Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). UCAB members are encouraged to contact Ms. Matthews with names of interested youth.
- The Public Information Office has developed a new website to share information regarding the Bag Law which is will be implemented in January 2012.
- Flu Vaccine information is now available on website. Residents interested in getting the vaccine must make an appointment.
- Community Service Week begins October 16 and informational sessions are scheduled around the county for interested families and groups.
- An emergency declaration for Maryland has been signed as a result of Hurricane Irene; however Montgomery County has not yet met eligibility requirements for reimbursable costs. The impacts are still under review and if our status changes, our Homeland Security/Emergency Management Office will be notified.
- The State Highway Administration will be removing commercial signs illegal placed (without a permit) in the State rights-of-way and along State roads in accordance with State law that became effective October 1, 2011. Warnings will be issued until January 2012 then a \$25.00 fine will be assessed for each illegal sign. The law includes yard sale, real estate and political signs.
- Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett is planning to issue an Executive Order creating strategic economic development projects in the county. The first project designated is the new Holy Cross Hospital that will be built on Montgomery College's Germantown campus.

Update from the County Council

- Mr. Andrews shared updates regarding implementation of the Zoning Re-Write Plan and the new CR Zone, the proposed Community Benefit Agreement Bill (Bill # 33-11), his role on the Council of Government's Emergency Management Committee, and various legislation considered by the Council.
- Mr. Andrews discussed the Executive's proposed Curfew Bill (Bill #25-11) and his plans to counter that bill with other legislation. He distributed handouts, "Positive Youth Development MCPD Requested Data" and "3rd District Increased Staffing, and urged the Board to not vote on the curfew bill.
- Mr. Michael Subin, representing County Executive Leggett, thanks UCAB for considering to comment on the curfew bill and clarified some points and challenged others made by Mr. Andrews.
- Another worksession of the Council's Public Safety Committee is scheduled for November 3 to further discuss the curfew bill.

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After questions, comments and some discussion among Board members, Scott Graham moved that the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board support the bill proposed by the County Executive. Pat Seals and Bob Thompson seconded. A vote was taken, 5 for and 7 against. Gail Robinson and Pat Seals noted that count was incorrect due to participation of a guest. Mr. Graham revoked his previous motion and restated the motion to support the bill with Mr. Thompson providing a second. The second vote verified by Chair Cardenas and Ms. Matthews counted 6 for the motion and 5 against. Mr. Cardenas said that he would draft the Board's letter of support and ensure that the various concerns about the bill would be included.

Civic Leaders Presentations:

Civic leaders from the Upcounty region were invited to discuss those priorities they see for the Upcounty from their communities' perspectives:

Marilyn Balcombe, President, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce

Barry Fantle, President, Clarksburg Civic Association

Charles Tilford, Greater Goshen Civic Association (representing President Kathleen Sentkowski)

Hercules Twine, Plum Gar Community (representing Joe Nelson, Plum Gar Recreation Center Advisory Committee)

John Clark, Town of Washington Grove (representing Mayor Georgette Cole)

A variety of interests were raised: the needed completion of road projects especially for economic development reasons, support of a gas tax increase only if the revenue is locked into the State's transportation fund, job creation, concern about the Mid-County Corridor Study, delayed renovation of the Plum Gar Recreation Center, gang activity, and speeding vehicles through neighborhoods.

Emergency Management Presentation

Chuck Crisostomo, from the County's Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management, presented information and guidance for families regarding preparedness.

Report from the Chairperson

Mr. Cardenas reported that our State legislators from the Upcounty delegation (Districts 14, 15, 17 and 39) would be guests at the Board's November 21st meeting.

Andres Aviles, Robert Thompson, and Patricia Seals offered to serve as the Interview Committee in the process to fill the three Board vacancies.

Other Discussion Items

- Doug Noble - Reports that he recently purchased a standby generator. Bids for propane and electrical contractors indicate a significant increase of permits and costs in Montgomery County. Montgomery County fees seem to be rising and permits are more expensive than neighboring counties.
- Bob Thompson- Thank you to all supporting the new Darnestown Square Park (Town Center) which started construction. There is community concern about what appears to be irrational and inconsistent tree trimming. Ms. Matthews thanked him for sharing the information and contact with PEPCO has been initiated.

Committee and Liaison Reports- No reports

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Members present: Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Cherian Eapen, Scott Graham, Matthew Leakan, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, Patricia Seals, Robert Thompson

Other Guests: Councilmember Phil Andrews, Michael Subin, 5D Cmdr. Luther Reynolds, Rosemary Arkoian, Bruce Goldensohn, Ron Cashion, Dennis Barnes, Jane Hatch, Lynn Fantle, Mr. Donohue.

Staff present: Catherine Matthews